

# The Anchorage Amateur

January, 1993

Anchorage Amateur Radio club Newsletter  
Editor - Harvey Rookus, NL7DK

Vol. 22, No. 1

## Jan 8th Meeting

Remember, our next meeting will be on the SECOND Friday in January due to the New Year's Holiday!!

**Be There!!**

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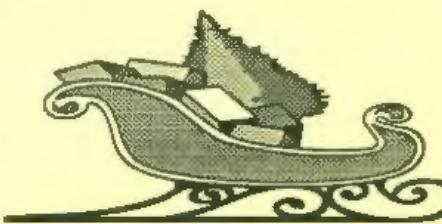
## Fine Time Had By All At 1992 Christmas Party

Nineteen Ninety-two was almost the year that everyone showed up for the Christmas Party and there was none. Fortunately due to the foresight of the Club's Officers in checking with the Alaska Pacific University Catering Service earlier in the week, the party came off with only a few glitches.

The catering calendar had shown the Club's party as set for Saturday Evening, December 5th at 7PM, when the Club and The Anchorage Amateur Newsletter had been informing one and all that the party would be at Six on the Fourth.

The catering crew was very happy and quite cooperative in rescheduling the party to the fourth. Although the catering crew

worked later than they had planned that evening, they were able to shorten their schedule for the following day from 18 hours to 12 hours and to go out Saturday Night!



The APU crew cooked and sliced the Christmas Turkey and also the two cooked chickens provided by one of the club's members. The buffet tables were covered with plenty of hot dishes, salads, hors d'oeuvres and desserts. It looked like everyone got enough of all that they wanted.

In the background, the Special Event Radio Station, KLAA, was playing Old

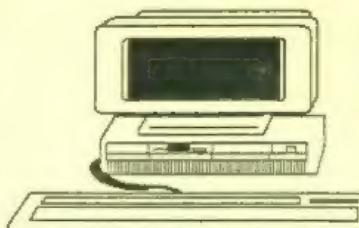
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## January Program Log

### New Packet Developments In Anchorage

John Lawson, NL7NC and Doug Dickinson, KL7IKX, will be the guest speakers at the first General Meeting of the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club in 1993. On January 8th, they will be telling us about the latest developments in Packet Radio on the local scene.

Doug, who is the Chairman of the AARC's VHF/UHF committee, will bring everyone



up to speed on the new Node software he has been installing on the area's packet repeaters. The new software is Version X-1H of 'TheNet' and it features the capacity to operate a 'chatnode' on each packet repeater.

'TheNet' will also allow TCP/IP users to use Transport Control and Internet

(Continued on page two)

## Solving One Mystery (Possibly) Leads To Another Mystery

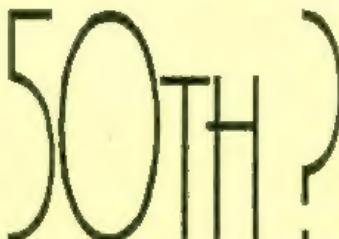
### Maybe You Have The Answer

In the previous issue of *The Anchorage Amateur Newsletter*, the volume number was identified as Volume ???. As the December issue went to press (photocopying actually), the Editor was busily searching through twenty years of back issues of the Newsletter to find the original first issue.

The original first issue did not turn up, but issue number two, volume number one, February 29th, 1972 did turn up in the Editor's searches. Yes, 1972 was a Leap Year, and No, the Newsletter doesn't come out only on Little Orphan Annie's birthdays.

The second issue of the Newsletter did have some interesting tidbits, some quite dated, such as the announcement that the March, 1972 meeting would include just for Novices - a crystal cut for 7.1625 Civil Air Patrol.

Mike Johnnie, everyone to know had started on the KHz, called the Stoplight Net. He started the net because so many hams needed patches and traffic passed which couldn't get done during the week. Wonder whatever became of that net?



a special door prize  
high accuracy  
mhz donated by the

KL7HFA, wanted  
about the new net he  
weekends on 14,292  
Weekend Traffic

(Continued from page one)

Protocols over the KL7AA packet repeaters without having it converted to AX.25 along the message path.

Doug says that he will have converted all of the KL7AA packet repeaters this winter and will convert the Eagle Node in the Spring, weather and road conditions permitting.

John, who is the KL7AA Packet Bulletin Board SysOp, will demonstrate the use of packet radio at the meeting. He will try to bring an overhead projection monitor for use with his packet computer. The projection monitor would enable the entire audience to view the packet messages and examples in his presentation.

He also reports that he may be demonstrating the new 9600 baud capability of the 70cm packet repeater if the proper equipment is available.

### Editor's Comment--

THANKS RICHARD - AL7MO

I have heard many good comments about the new format of the Newsletter. I want to be certain that the credit goes to the right party. Richard Mote - AL7MO, our Activities manager came up with ideas for this format several months back. He had some very excellent ideas he wanted to try. He volunteered to start putting the Newsletter onto a computer which he has been doing. I think that he is doing a Super Job and I certainly appreciate the great help that he has been. Many Thanks Richard for the fine job of upgrading the Club Newsletter.

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73, Harvey, NL7DK

## *Minutes From The General Meeting*

By: NL7DL, Lil Marvin

There are no minutes. We has a great Christmas party. The potluck was good. Alaska Pacific University's Food Catering Service did an excellent job, providing us with turkey, ham and beverages. Santa came and everybody had a wonderful time!

Congratulations to the following Christmas Party raffle prize winners:

First Prize Zan Spurgeon WL7AX,  
Second Prize George Meacock  
NL7RD and Third Prize Mark  
Kelliher KL7TQ.

Also congratulations to Neil Thalaker, KL7BGZ, the annual AARC Manure Spreader Award winner for 1992, for spreading more manure over the airwaves this past year than anyone else. We couldn't have picked a more deserving winner. And thanks to Gene, NL7YI for helping him to win the award through their daily on-the-air contacts.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Lil Marvin, NL7DL*

## *Minutes From The Board Meeting*

By: NL7DL, Lil Marvin

The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Board meeting was opened at 7PM by Vice President Joan Beller, AL7NK, who was filling in for vacationing President Fred Wegmer, KL7HFM. The meeting was short as we did not have a quorum.

The following board members were present: AL7NK, AL7ID, AL7MO, WL7IHE, NL7DL, KL7HFX, AL7BB, NL7UH and NL7VR. The following members were also present: KL7HFQ, WL7BF, KL7IKX and NL7DK.

Richard, AL7MO, suggested that, since he has several leftover Christmas presents which are 2 or 3 years old, he be allowed to donate them to some worthwhile charity. Also, since Alaska Pacific University now caters our general meetings with coffee and goodies, Richard asked that he be allowed to donate the unopened cans of

club coffee and Tang to Bean's Cafe. The board gave him the go-ahead on both counts.

John, AL7ID, suggested that the club have a door prize, worth between \$25.00 and \$50.00 for next year's Christmas party.

Fielder, KL7FHX, reported having about \$1,000 in the club account.

Bob, NL7UH, reported having problems with what sounds like an AC hum on 20 meters which occurs at different times of the day and takes up quite a bit of the band. Others have also noted this problem. Any suggestions?

Since we had no quorum, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Lil Marvin, NL7DL*

## Calendar 1993

First Half

### JANUARY

General Meeting 8th  
Board Meeting 13th  
PARKA Meeting 30th

### FEBRUARY

General Meeting 5th  
Board Meeting 10th  
Fur Rondy - Grand Prix &  
Sled Dog Races  
Iditarod Sled Dog Race  
PARKA Meeting 27th

### MARCH

General Meeting 5th  
Board Meeting 5th  
29th Anniversary of The  
Great Alaska Earthquake  
PARKA Meeting 27th

### APRIL

General Meeting 2nd  
Board Meeting 14th  
PARKA Meeting 24th

### MAY

General Meeting 7th  
Board Meeting 12th  
PARKA Meeting 29th

### JUNE

General Meeting 4th  
Club Elections  
Board Meeting 9th  
New & Old Board Members  
Field Day 1993 26th & 27th  
PARKA Meeting ???  
Motley Picnic (Byers Lake)

When submitting announcements to the Newsletter, remember to include Who, What, When, Where, Why and How.

# Early Subarctic Telegraphy

by NL7J - Les Buchholz

The Anchorage Amateur's First Article Submitted By Computer

The sub-arctic regions in the northwest made an interesting contribution to the history of telegraphy through use of "over the wire" and radio propagation modes.

The Arctic regions were by their very nature of isolation and climate, a difficult place to construct and maintain telegraph services.

In the 1800's what was the incentive for such an extensive project. The Yukon gold rush of 1898 in an unusual twist of necessity provided the rationale and incentive to build this real time type of communication.

The development of the far north required surveying which emphasized accuracy because of the new boundary being cut between the Yukon Territory and Alaska. A surveyor uses astronomical readings, however the relative position on earth from astronomy sightings is dependent on accurate time.

The U.S surveyors wanted a direct contact with Arlington Observatory in Washington to get a chronometer reading.<sup>1</sup> The telegraph lines could provide this benefit along with communications and subsequently crossed international boundaries, eventually spanning a length of six thousand miles.

The Yukon Telegraph line construction had teams at both ends in the northern section working toward each other, and was completed in late 1901. The

line ran from Ashcroft in B.C. to Whitehorse and on to Dawson.

The problems of avalanches, spring breakup, forest fires and the extreme isolation of the many relay stations made the "landline" survival a risky business. The line eventually included Skagway, AK., Whitehorse, YT., Prince Rupert, BC., Stewart, BC., and Prince George, BC.

Of interest to Alaskans is the northern section which started in 1901, the same year Marconi sent wireless telegraphy across the Atlantic. In the following 30 years wireless became refined. Various sections of the Yukon Telegraph experimented with CW.<sup>2</sup>

Not surprisingly to Alaskan and Canadian radio amateurs (Hams) on H.F., the propagation of CW did indeed work in the arctic regions. The dynamics of propagation were not well understood and waves skipped over near stations.

These problems were later overcome by use of different wavelengths. The operators at first worked with both the Morse Code of wire communications and then the International Morse Code used in radio telegraphy.<sup>3</sup>

Radio Amateurs use the International Morse Code. Morse code as a predecessor and close cousin paved the way for radio telegraphy; otherwise known do to material of the telegraph key as "brass pounding". In 1936 the wireless mode served the entire section. Today, Alaskan

and Canadian Amateurs utilizing H.F. no doubt can relate to the frustrations and problems of moving messages within the confines of aurora and extreme cold.

<sup>1</sup> Guy Lawrence "40 Years on the Yukon Telegraph", Carrall Books Ltd., 1990, pp 64.

<sup>2</sup> Guy Lawrence "40 Years on the Yukon Telegraph", Carrall Books Ltd., 1990, pp 111.

<sup>3</sup> ARRL "The ARRL Handbook", ARRL, 1990.

(Continued from page one)

Time Radio programs with a Christmas theme, and then played modern Christmas music. We were also treated with a quick visit from that famed Alaskan DXpeditioner, KL7AUS, (With a little help from Paul, WL7BF). He brought presents for all of the children who were at the party.

After the party during the cleanup, we found a sack our guest had left behind along with a note. The note said that due to his pressing schedule, he'd appreciate it if we could deliver the sack of presents to Castle On O'Malley for the December 13th party being held for special-needs children and shelter families.

## Swap N Shop

40mhz Hitachi Oscilloscope Model V-422 Portable - with handle. Weighs only 16 lbs. 5" x 14" x 17". Good condition. \$200.00 Call Flip Todd any time, any day, 274-4370.

# VEC Report November - December

COMMUNITY	CALL	FROM	TO	Notes:
<b>ANCHORAGE</b>				
Robert P. Billings, Jr.		Novice	HF Technician	
Ronald Briggs	1	No License	HF Technician	
Armel B. Cataquiz	NL7VR	HF Technician	NC Technician	
Simon W. Carraway		No License	General	
Jerry L. Cates		NC Technician	NC Technician	
Carl O. Ellis	WL7AB	No License	HF Technician	
Joan B. Erickson		NC Technician	NC Technician	
Donald K. Gill, Jr.		No License	NC Technician	
Dana M. Gran		Novice	HF Technician	
Helen M. Hankins		No License	NC Technician	
Ty W. Hardt	2	No License	NC Technician	
Ty W. Hardt	2	No License	General	
Michael S. Patterson	NL7MI	No License	NC Technician	
Martene G. Poulsen		General	Advanced	
James B. Steward		No License	NC Technician	
Douglas T. Stowers	WL7CDC	Technician	General	
Vincent M. Withington	NL7ZJ	General	Advanced	
<b>EAGLE RIVER</b>				NC Technician = No Code Technician HF Technician = Technician with HF privileges.
Ronald Briggs	1	No License	NC Technician	
Richard E. Falk		No License	NC Technician	
Robert A. French		No License	NC Technician	
Ronald A. Gehres	WL7FX	HF Technician	General	
Terry E. Johnson		No License	NC Technician	
Peter C. March	WL7CCN	General	Advanced	
Jerry L. Sandige		No License	HF Technician	
Christian O. Wilkins		No License	NC Technician	
<b>FAIRBANKS</b>				
John W. Bansi		No License	NC Technician	
Patrick M. Bookey, Sr.	AL7OH	Advanced	Extra	
Marlene L. Buchanan		No License	NC Technician	
Denke S. Epperson		No License	NC Technician	
Judith M. Gouwens		No License	NC Technician	
Wesley G. Graf		No License	NC Technician	
Thomas A. Griffith		No License	NC Technician	
David B. Hoffman		No License	NC Technician	
Gordon L. Hutchinson		No License	NC Technician	
George T. Lampe		No License	NC Technician	
Thomas E. Lassek	WL7EP	NC Technician	HF Technician	
Paul D. Mane	WL7CV	HF Technician	General	
Dennis J. Rundle		No License	NC Technician	
Kenneth P. Severin		No License	NC Technician	
Charles C. Smothermon III		No License	NC Technician	
Joanne M. Smothermon		No License	NC Technician	
John N. Taylor		No License	NC Technician	
Pamela M. Tinsley		No License	NC Technician	
Bruce G. Whipple		No License	HF Technician	
<b>JUNEAU</b>				
Robert W. Hughes	WL7EA	NC Technician	HF Technician	
Barbara T. Greening	WL7CJ	HF Technician	General	
Roy R. Greening	WL7CK	HF Technician	General	
Tommy P. Quires, Jr.		No License	NC Technician	
<b>SOLDOTNA</b>				
Doug A. Anderson		No License	NC Technician	
Gary J. Titus	WL7CAB	Technician	General	

## Spring Radio Classes

Lil and Rick Marvin, NL7DL and KL7HF, will be starting the Spring 1993 Amateur Radio License classes on February 23rd. They will be teaching everything you need to know to pass the Novice, No Code Technician, HF Technician and General class license examinations.

The classes will meet for eight weeks on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00 at the Central Lutheran Church, Fifteenth and Cordova. Those interested in taking the classes are asked to register in advance. Cost of the course will be \$35.00 plus the cost of any required course materials and study guides.

For more information and to register for the course, please contact Lil and Rick at 277-8741. If they are not available, please leave a message on the answering machine. You can also discuss the classes with them at the January 8th and February 5th General Meetings of the AARC.

# What's It All About Alfie

By Chuck Frensley, WL7DZ

Let me tell you 'bout the birds and the bees and the antenna connectors in the trees and the moon . . . Aw heck! - you get the idea.

I recently joined the ranks of HT owners. No, that's not High Towers or Holographic Tea.

Handi-talkies. A great gift for the person who has everything and was not even thinking about an HT. Big surprise, eh Steve?

Seriously though, get one of these and talk around the world (unquotel!).

I have had (owned, used, etc.) a number of HTs over the years and have found that on occasion, the manufacturer can slip up, hard as that may seem, and fail to properly tighten, solder or otherwise secure something inside that keeps life dull and boring.

What I am going to point out is not intended as a direct attack on the Alinco DJ-580T or any other radio for that matter. Only that, if you have had similar experiences, the cause(s) may be the one and the same.

Open it up (don't tell Rick!) and you may find that (1) the retaining nut on the underside of the antenna connector is loose, (2) the wire connecting the shield or even the "hot" wire is loose, cold-soldered or barely attached to the edge of the solder lump or (3) all of the above.

I know, I know. I'm not supposed to be taking the rubber duck on and off so frequently. Well, I have been doing just that since around 194 . . . I mean 1975. Changing from RD to the outside antenna was a way of

life and still is now that I have my homemade "J" or whatever it may be called by some.

Another reason (I learned previously) for this phenomenon to occur is carrying the little thing around on your belt all the time. When you get in your vehicle and sit down, the poor RD has no choice but to attempt to impale itself into the depths of your seat cushion.

Failing to do this, it "bends" a little causing the (1,2 and 3) mentioned previously to occur.

## Handi-Talkies. A great gift for the person who has everything and was not even thinking about an HT.

The end result may be static, funny noises or constant drifting in and out of the repeaters (I heard that). The best way to remove whatever may be attached to the BNC is to twist until it stops, then pull straight off.

If you continue twisting (it's not a Vasic pickle jar), you put undue rotation strain on the retaining nut and the connecting wires below the surface.

HTs are prone to contract all sorts of maladies and infirmities in their lifetime and the best of them will continue to do so, regardless of who owns them.

But, we can take steps to stave off or otherwise postpone the inevitable as long as we observe a few basic rules of TLC (Talkies Love Care).

### DON'T -

1. Seat your bod without removing it from your belt.
2. Twist the BNC connector any farther than need be to align or secure the locking studs.
3. Put excessive pressure at the junction of the battery and body.
4. Operate the keypad with sticky fingers.
5. Open hot pop cans or the like nearby.
6. Leave in direct sunlight or on the rear deck of your T-bird.
7. Leave it where inexperienced hands may come into contact with it, and
8. Please, please don't drop it any farther than you would your wife or children.

Lastly, if you do not know the procedure for discharging static from your body before working around CHIPS (no, not the California High Patrol), then DON'T TAKE IT APART - OK? OK.

**Editor's Note** In the June, 1989 issue of the Newsletter, we reported on instructions given by the City of San Diego, California to their Police Officers for the use of HTs.

The instructions said that Officers were given the City's blessing to use the HTs as saps if necessary to prevent injury. It was the careless abuse that they wanted to avoid.

**AARC GENERAL MEETINGS** are held on the first Friday evening of each month in Room 102 of the Carr-Gottstein Building on the Alaska Pacific University Campus.

The campus is located at 4101 University Drive and Bragaw Streets. Parking is available only in the lot to the northeast of the building.

The meetings begin at 7:00 PM and visitors are always welcome! The AARC legendary raffle is open to everyone.

**AARC BOARD MEETINGS** are held on the second Wednesday evening of each month in Room 104 of the Carr-Gottstein Building on the APU campus.

The meetings begin at 7:00 PM and are open to all club members and visitors.

**AARC MID MONTH SOCIALS** are held on the third Wednesday evening of each month (except June, November and December). They begin at 7:00 PM at the Royal Fork Buffet Restaurant, 800 Northway Drive. Visitors are always welcome!

**THE KL7AA REPEATERS** sponsored by the club are on 146.94 (at minus .600), 224.94 (-1.600) and 444.7 (+5.000). The two meter repeater located on top of Flattop Mt. requires a 100 hz tone for access.

The satellite receiver located on Government Hill does not require a tone. The 125 cm repeater, also on Flattop Mt. and the 70 cm repeater located at the South Central Radio site do not require tone for access. The repeater trustee is William Reiter, KL7ITI. Paul Spatzek, WL7BF is the contact for the VHF/UHF committee.

**FREE LICENSE EXAMS** are held on the first Wednesday evening of the month at 6:30PM in the Carr-Gottstein Bldg on the APU campus and on the third Wednesday evening of the month in Eagle River at 7PM in the basement of the VFW Hall.

For more information contact VEC Director, Roger Hansen, KL7HFQ at 892-6365.

#### ANCHORAGE ARES NET

The Anchorage area Amateur Radio Emergency Services net is held each Thursday evening at 8:00 PM on the KL7ION repeater on 147.3 (+.600). Net Control is Lil Marvin, NL7DL and alternate NCS station is KL7IO.

The Westlink Amateur Radio report, Swap N Shop and the Parka Net follow the ARES net on the same frequency.

### ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. PO BOX 101987 - ANCHORAGE, AK 99510-1987

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL SIGN \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE; HOME \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL MEMBER? YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_ LIFE \_\_\_\_

YOUR STATION CAPABILITIES; HF \_\_\_\_\_ VHF \_\_\_\_\_ UHF \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE HF \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE VHF \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE UHF \_\_\_\_\_

AMSAT/OSCAR \_\_\_\_\_ RTTY \_\_\_\_\_ PACKET \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have other special interest in Amateur Radio? \_\_\_\_\_ MICROPROCESSOR/DIGITAL \_\_\_\_\_

TRANSMITTER HUNTS \_\_\_\_\_ FIELD DAY \_\_\_\_\_ FLEA MARKET \_\_\_\_\_  
OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE; Membership period is one year from date you pay. Grace period is thirty days after your due date.

DUES; \$20.00 Regular    \$25.00 Family    \$10.00 Student  
Life memberships available; contact Lance Dunbar, AL7BK for information at (H) 337-6297 or (W) 561-5457

EDITOR'S NOTE; Please remember, the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club benefits financially if you enter your ARRL membership renewal through the club.

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*Next Meeting Jan 8th*

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73/Bill/KL7KI

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